The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

July 2022 Volume 52 Number 7

Hams Who Serve

Celebrate Freedom

From The Prez

Time for Action

We have been kicking some ideas around for a while and talking about them – but now it's time for action and time to put the ideas into play. It's uncertain if I will run for president again, and if I do, it's a good chance I would get out-voted. Whatever happens, I don't want to leave the next president with a mess. Over the next few months let's look at what is up in the air and solidify things or put them in the rear view.

TOOL and EQUIPMENT POOL --- There are times when we all need a tool or piece of equipment to complete a ham radio project that we don't have, can't afford, or can't justify the expense for a one-time use of the tool. So far members have offered various items to be included in the pool such as a coax cable crimping set, an antenna analyzer, and an industrial size cable crimper. Another member who is an electrical and construction contractor has offered to share his humongous collection of tools to fellow members. The overall concept would be to list the available tools and the donor's contact information on the website.

BACK-UP SECRETARY --- This is an easy one. All we need is a person with a modicum of writing ability to take the minutes at meetings in the rare event the secretary is unable to attend.

QUARTERMASTER and STORAGE --- I have already secured a storage area, so all we need is a person to inventory the club equipment and aid in the availability for use.

CLUB HISTORIAN --- We already have an archive manager who has been taking care of the documents we have managed to save and is gracious enough to store them. I have been in contact with several charter members and have gathered some interesting background information; all we need is a member to put it all together.

FUND RAISERS --- One of our newer members has offered several good ideas and we have past successes. We just need to discuss what we wish to do and do it.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR --- I will be retiring as the *Wobbly Oscillator* editor at the end of the year.

Picnic Meeting

Our first picnic of the summer went about the same as they have in the past, the same five or six members took advantage of the opportunity and cooked out. “It was like deja vu all over again.” {*As said by baseball legend Yogi Berra*.} Since I am one of those five or six and a master griller (hi-hi), I enjoy the happening and will continue to do harm to my burgers and brats while sharing the experience with fellow members. It would really be cool to see even a couple more folks join in. So, grab something to grille and whatever other picnic food you desire and make the picnic meetings expand in participation. A blazing fire, soft drinks, and desert will be provided for you.

73, Toby, WT8O

(L) Toby, WT8O; Bob, K8RGI; and Scott, AC8NW, enjoying the food they cooked. Terry, KB8DTC, was a bit bummed because he didn’t bring anything.

(R) The June meeting attracted a good gathering.

CARS June Meeting Minutes

LOCATION---The meeting was held June 14th, at the Harriett Keeler Picnic Pavilion in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

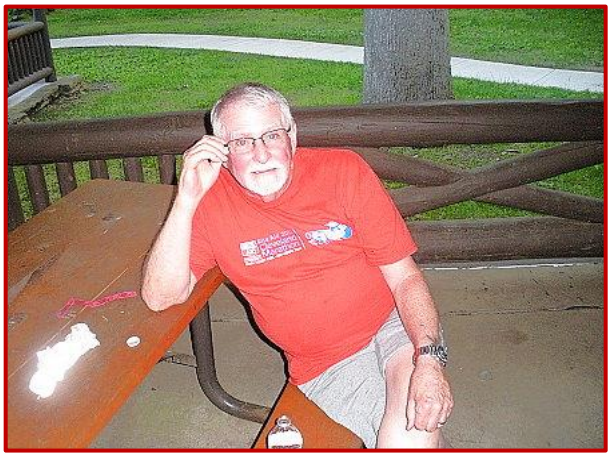
CALLED TO ORDER---The meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:34 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE---Those present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTIONS---Those present introduced themselves. 23 individuals attended the meeting, including three new members and one guest.

MAY MINUTES---The May minutes were approved as published in the *WO.*

NEW MEMBERS---Three new members were voted into the Club: Jim Wolan, KE8TLG, Ed Gardner, K4EDG and Pete Sklenar, KE8NQK. Welcome to the new members!



It was good to see star Field Day chef Bill Brown looking pretty dapper since his retirement.

The members were focused on Bob, K8RGI, as he gave an excellent presentation regarding the upcoming Field Day.

TREASURER'S REPORT---Bob Robbins, K8RGI, reported on the club's current financial situation. No issues or concerns were identified.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Toby Kolman, WT8O, reported

- Please sign in on the sign-in sheet
- Please send any member changes, such as new address or upgraded license, to the Club webmaster, Bob, W8GC
- Thank you to Andy, KD8SCV, for helping to organize and inventory John's, NC8J's (SK), equipment
- Thank you to Terry, KB8TDC, for climbing and pruning Toby's trees
- There was QRM, human-generated interference, on a recent Net. If QRM occurs during a Net, don't recognize it and say nothing.
- NC8J's equipment is available for sale at fair market value
- The Dayton Bus received positive feedback from all who rode it to Hamvention 2022 in May. The June *WO* has many quotes from riders. The Club is already starting to think about how to increase ridership next year with ideas like an Early Bird special and discounted pricing for members.
- Wayne, K8FF, is featured in this month's *QST*
- The Club is ordering identification badges for $10. Toby will take your picture.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT---Ron Hollas, K8RJH, reported

- The *WO* is getting better every month. Please send Toby, WT8O, your contributions.
- Amateur Radio license fees are in effect
- Check out the latest ARRL *On the Air* podcast, episode 30, which discusses ARRL Field Day and off-the-grid operating
- ARRL's *Audio News* is available every Friday afternoon. It summarizes the week's top stories in the world of Amateur Radio.
- The ARRL website (http://www.arrl.org) has been updated. Be sure to check it out!

SECRETARY'S REPORT---Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE---Arp, K8ARP, reported that there is nothing new with public service. Additional public service opportunities can be found on the N8ESG website (https://n8esg.org/). Bill, N8BBB, participated in the Cleveland Marathon. The June *WO* has more information about the marathon.

VE UPDATE---Metro, W8MET, reported that VE updates can be found in the June *WO*. New Technician questions are effective July 1, 2022. The next CARS VE Session will be on Sunday, July 10, 2022 9:15am at the Old Rec Center in Independence.

FIELD DAY---Bob, K8RGI, reported that additional Field Day information will be provided during the program following the meeting.

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, July 12 - 7:30 PM

Harriet Keeler Picnic Area Brecksville Reservation

See Website for Details & Map - www.2cars.org

Meeting Program:

Merchant Marine Academy

John, NU8Y, & Rita Tombros

PROGRAM COMMITTEE---Joe, KD8BAL, reported

- Today's program is Bob, K8RGI, presenting on Field Day
- July's program is to be announced
- Please send ideas for programs to Joe
-

TECH COMMITTEE---Scott, AC8NW, had nothing to report.

REFRESHMENTS---Toby, WT8O, thanked Ron, K8RJH, for providing soft drinks, Matt, KB8UCH, for providing doughnuts, and Shawn, KE8RMV, for providing coffee for in person meetings. Coffee is on hold for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS---Toby, WT8O, reported that

- The Club needs a new net control station. The Club recently lost two net control stations and currently has four. Anyone interested should let Toby, WT8O, know. Anyone unsure is encouraged to try before committing.
- The Club needs a backup secretary and treasurer. Volunteers should contact Toby.
- The Club needs ideas for fundraisers. Please let Toby know if you have any ideas.

NEW BUSINESS---Toby, WT8O, reported that

- The Club needs a historian. Terry, KB8DTC, is the Club Archivist and has pre-Club correspondence from 1968 and a *WO* from 1971. Ted, K8TED, and Jerry, NW9H, are original members of the Club.
- The Club needs a quartermaster. The Club's equipment can be stored at Bob's, W8GC's, rental property in North Royalton.
- Eddie, KD8FTS, is the chairman of the 2023 Dayton Bus committee.

NEXT MEETING---The next meeting of The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be on July 12, 2022. The meeting is scheduled at the Harriett Keeler Picnic Pavilion in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks.

50/50 DRAWING---Matt, KB8UCH, won the 50/50 drawing.

ADJOURNMENT---The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

After the meeting, Bob Robbins, K8RGI, presented on Field Day.

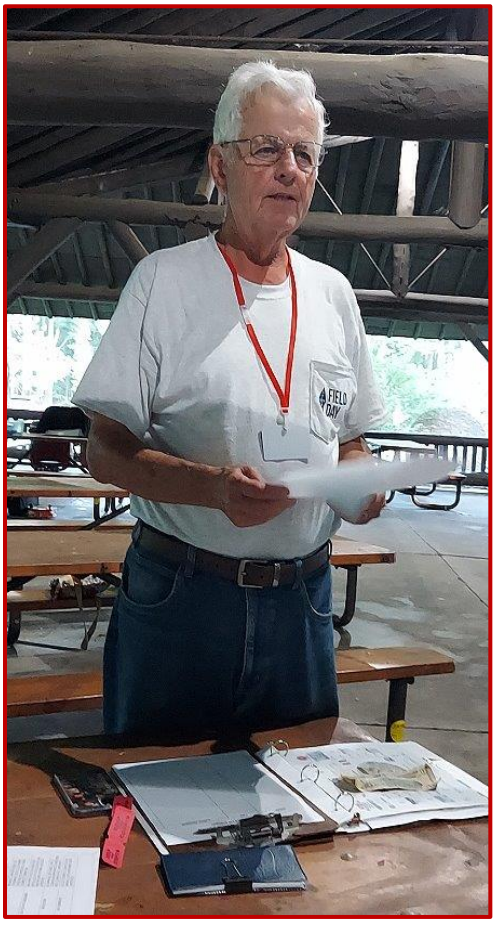
Submitted by Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, CARS Secretary.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ED GARDNER K4EDG

PETE SKLENAR KE8NQK

Ron, K8RJH, set-up and demonstrated the FD logging program.



Bob, K8RGI, prepares the group with information about Field Day.

Bill, K4NZZ, made the scene on his Hot Wheels.

Field Day 2022

Bob, K8RGI

Field Day was a great success. The weather was great, and we did not have any rain. We met Friday evening and put-up antennas. Ron Hollas, K8RJH, erected his 135-foot end fed long wire. Ron tested it using WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporting) to quickly show that the antenna was a winner. This antenna was used for the SSB station captained by Mat, KE8OZU. Mark, WJ8WM, the captain of the second SSB station used a shorter end fed long wire. David, AC8TN, and Metro, W8MET, erected a vertical for 20, 15 and 10 meters and an inverted V for 80 and 40 meters. The vertical was unique in that it used measuring tapes as radials so they could be adjusted per band. The digital stations captained by Richard, WA8RR, used two antennas. One station had an inverted V for 80 through 15 meters and the other station had a GR5V dipole. Everyone seemed to be happy with their antenna selections.

The food was provided by Bill, W8BBB. For lunch Saturday, Bill made hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst with all the trimmings plus baked beans and coleslaw. For dinner we had pulled pork sandwiches with watermelon for dessert. There were also cookies to snack on all day provided by Louann, No Call yet. Bill always makes a pot of soup for overnight and this year was no exception. The meal that most people look forward to is breakfast. Bill makes pancakes and sausages plus eggs to order. For lunch Sunday we ordered pizza. There was no reason to go away hungry from Field Day.

Mat, KE8OZU, took over one of the SSB stations less than two weeks before Field Day. He had no experience with SSB operation or the FT-450 transceiver. Mark, KC8ESG, provided on the job training, and by the end of the weekend this station was cranking out contacts. This is one of the fun things about Field Day learning from each other.

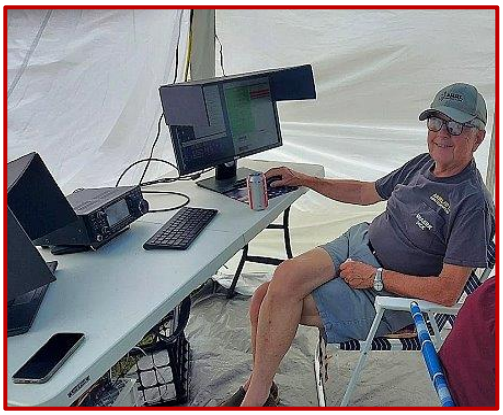
Ron, K8RJH, provided all the networking for the N3FJP scoring software. It performed flawlessly.

There were many people who contributed to the success of this event not mentioned here but without them it would not have happened.

Field Day is an event not a contest but here are the numbers anyway. The CW station had 606 contacts, the SSB stations 440 contacts and the digital stations 1,030 contacts for a total of 2,076 contacts. Total contact points were 3,712. The bonus points have not been added in yet.

Field Day 2023 is June 24th and 25th. Only 360 days.

Dave, AC8TN, banging out the Qs on CW.



Richard, WA8RR, looking cool and operating hot.

The wild looking loop antenna.

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Analog Repeater

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

****

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.820 Repeater

Brecksville

****

444.75 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Analog Repeater

Not Linked to Other Repeaters

Shaker Hts.

Mark, WJ8WM, getting the site ready for action.

Matt, KE8OZU, and John, NU8Y, operating their first Field Day and loving every minute of it.

A Programming Aid for Traveling 2-Meter Radios

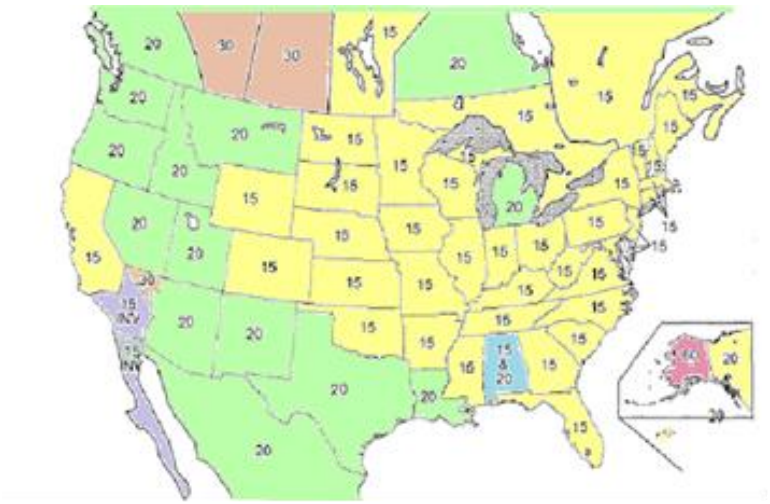
Ron, K8RJH

If you are planning to take your 2-meter radio on a road trip this summer, the ARRL has some great information on their web site to aid with the proper settings for channel programming observed by State and Provinces in North America.

It is always best to check the local VHF band plan, usually supplied by the frequency coordinating body for the area that you will be operating before you do travel. Typically, while the State frequency coordinators focus is coordinating repeaters, this governance body usually specifies recommended simplex frequencies and technical parameters to follow in their jurisdiction. Most frequency coordinating organizations do follow the suggested ARRL 2m band plan, while adapting it for local use.

An operational issue for the 2-meter band is that some areas have adopted a 15-kHz channel spacing while others use a 20-kHz channel spacing. A typical FM signal is about 16 kHz wide, so the 15 kHz channel spacing is a bit tight but does allow for more channels (resulting in more adjacent channel interference issues). The 20-kHz spacing band plan potentially has better operating performance in congested areas with an obvious disadvantage resulting with a fewer count of simplex channels.

This map from the ARRL site is a great visual aid for showing the channel spacing in use within North America.



Map of the US showing 15 kHz (Yellow) and 20 kHz (Green) channels on the 2-meter band.

Even though the most of the recommended simplex channels are non-compatible between the 15 KHz and 20 KHz zones, the national calling frequency of 146.520 is usable in both popular band plans, making it a good common channel to program in any traveling 2-meter radio.

Be sure to check out the following references below for useful programming guidance.

For additional information:
Listing of the Amateur Frequency Coordinators by State:
https://w2xg.com/bm-repeaters.html

ARRL Band Plan Information
https://www.arrl.org/band-plan

What Frequencies do I use on 2-Meters?

https://www.hamradioschool.com/post/what-frequency-do-i-use-on-2-meters

Nasa Report
Bob, KC8MRC

A new solar system 33 light years away with more than one planet found (HD 260655).

July Net Sked

JUL	6	AC8NW
JUL	13	WT8O
JUL	20	K8RJH
JUL	27	KD8ACO

Nets are run every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on:

146.820 (PL 110.9)

443.825(+) PL Tone 131.8
Digital Yaesu Fusion
Linked to the 146.82 Repeater

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

Allstar Node 47067

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG, SK
Elected 5/14/19

Ed Stevens, WB8ROK, SK
Elected 8/10/21

July VE Session

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, July 10th, at **9:15 AM*** at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net

As always, walk-ins are welcome.

***Please note time change to 9:15 AM.**

The antenna system.

Detail of coax routing, note weatherhead fitting.

Lightning arrestors ground connection.

New Neighbor's Antenna
Toby, WT8O

A new ham moved into my neighborhood a while back. I helped Randy, KD8CCZ, put up his 135-foot homebrew end-fed antenna by shooting a line over a tree limb with my air cannon. Randy used a pulley and weight to allow for movement and reduce wear on the support rope. He planned to originate the end-fed from a mast on his chimney he intended to install that would also hold a tri-band vertical.

When I visited him again a week or so later, he had the impressive installation completed. I was so amazed with the extraordinary job he did, I had him take pictures to include in our newsletter and share them with club members.

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, if credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net

CARS 2022 Officers & Committees

Audit
K8RJH ** WT8O, WJ8WM

Audio/Video
AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison
K8RJH **

Awards
W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic
WJ8WM **, K8ARP, KD8FTU, KD8FTV

Field Day
K8RGI **, WT8O, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, WT8O, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50
KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus
KD8FTS **

License classes
KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative
KD8SCV

Membership
WT8O ** W8GC

NET
WT8O **

Newsletter
WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings
KD8BAL ** KD8FTS, KE8OZU

Property Custodian's
KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services
KD8FTS **, K8ARP

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM
WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic
K8RJH ** pop, NW8X ** Donuts, KE8RMV *** Coffee

Scholarship
W8GC ** K8RGI, KE8OZU, WT8O, K8RJH

Sunshine (welfare)
Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical
AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8RJH, KB8DTC

VE Exams
Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail
W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2022 Officers

PRESIDENT
Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT
Ron Hollas, K8RJH, 216-379-7440

SECRETARY
Matt Perlman, KE8OZU, 216-337-1540
Alternate Secretary:

TREASURER:
Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750
Alternate Treasurer: Bob Robbins, K8RGI

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman:
Mark Moro WJ8WM 216-661-0342

even year executive board 2 year term
AC8NW, KB8DTC, WJ8WM

odd year executive board 2 year term
K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8FTS

License trustee
K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee
W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC

February 5, 2022